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MORNING BELLS

OR

WAKING THOUGHTS FOR

THE LITTLE ONES

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

MORNING BELLS.

MURRAY AND GIBB, EDINBURGH,
TERS TO HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

MORNING BELLS;

OR,

WAKING THOUGHTS FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

BY

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

LONDON
J. NISBET & CO., BERNERS STREET.
1875.

141. m. 361.

TO

THE TWIN BROTHERS,

WILLIE AND ETHELBERT,

WITH

AUNT FANNY'S LOVE.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
	Morning Bells,	9
1.	'Thy Holy Child Jesus,'	11
2.	'Even Christ pleased not Himself,'	14
3.	'Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe,'	17
4.	'Bear ye one another's burdens,'	20
5.	'Yield your members as instruments of righteousness unto God,'	23
6.	'Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly,'	26
7.	'Faithful over a few things,'	29
8.	'Put that on mine account,'	32
9.	'Let thy garments be always white,'	35
10.	'Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us,'	38
11.	'Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy,'	41
12.	'The Lord is able to give thee much more than this,'	44
13.	'Whatsoever the king did pleased all the people,'	47

Contents.

	PAGE
art also will I give you,' .	50
my Spirit within you,' .	53
shall fight for you,' .	56
ch to see what He will say '	59
for you,'	62
ıis wings shalt thou trust,' .	65
h you alway,' . . .	68
e to do Thy will,' . .	71
done it unto me ;' 'Ye did it ne,'	74
st given a banner to them r Thee,'	77
o be a soldier,' . . .	80
may please him who hath him to be a soldier,' . .	83
ver He saith unto you, do it,'	86
ver ye do, do it heartily, as ord,'	89
Him who is invisible,' .	92
y aside every weight,' .	95
st also given me the shield of vation,'	98
e Thee, O Lord, . .	101

MORNING BELLS.

MOST of the readers of this little book will have already read *Little Pillows*. Those were given you to go to sleep upon night after night; sweet, soothing texts, that little hearts might rest upon.

But in the morning we want something to arouse us, and to help us to go brightly and bravely through the day. So here are 'Morning Bells' to waken up the little hearts, and to remind them that we must not only rest in Jesus, but walk in Him. If the motto of 'Little Pillows' might be

1.

First Day. ## Christ's Childhood.

'Thy holy child Jesus.'—ACTS 4. 30.

IF I asked, 'How old are you?' you would give an exact answer. 'Eight and a half;' 'Just turned ten;' 'Eleven next month.' Now you have thought of God's 'holy child Jesus' as a little baby, and as twelve years old in the temple, but did you ever think of Him as being *exactly* your own age? that He was once really just as old as you are this very day? He knows what it is to be eight, and nine, and ten years old, or whatever you may be. God's word has only told us this one thing about those years, that He was a *holy* child.

What is 'holy'? It is everything
at is perfectly beautiful and good
d lovable, without anything to spoil
This is just what He was when
e was your age. He was gentle and
ave, and considerate and unselfish,
ble and truthful, obedient and loving,
nd and forgiving,—everything you
n think of that you ever admired or
ved in any one else was all found
gether in Him, and all this not only
tside but inside, for He was 'holy.'
Why did He live all these holy child-
ars on earth instead of staying in
aven till it was time to come and
e for you? One reason was, that He
ght leave you a beautiful example,
that you might wish to be like Him,
d ask for the Holy Spirit to make
u like Him. But the other was
en more gracious and wonderful, it
is 'that we might be made the right-

eousness of God in Him.' That is, that all this goodness and holiness might be reckoned to you, because you had not any of your own, and that God might smile on you *for His sake*, just as if *you* had been perfectly obedient, and truthful, and unselfish, and good, and give you Jesus Christ's reward, which you never deserved at all, but which He deserved for you.

He took your sins and gives you His righteousness; He took your punishment and gives you His reward; it is just changed over, if you will only accept the exchange!

'I'm glad my blessed Saviour
Was once a child like me,
To show how pure and holy
His little ones might be.
And if I try to follow
His footsteps here below,
He never will forget me,
Because He loves me so.'

2.

Our Great Example.

Even Christ pleased not Himself.'—
ROM. 15. 3.

)O you really wish to follow the
footsteps of the Holy Child
s? Have you asked God to make
more like Him? Are you ready
egin to-day? Then here is a motto
o-day, 'Even Christ pleased not
self.' Will you take it, and try to
ıte Him? You are sure to have
ty of opportunities of acting upon
ıd thus proving not only to others,
to your dear Saviour Himself, that
mean what you say, and mean
t you pray.

erhaps it seems a rather melancholy

'morning bell' to you, tolling instead of chiming! But if you really wish to be like Christ, you will soon find that its music is as sweet as any, and that its quiet chime will come to you again and again with a wonderful sweetness and power, helping you over all sorts of difficulties, and saving you from all sorts of sins and troubles.

You cannot tell, till you have fairly tried, how happy a little girl can feel, who has cheerfully given up to another, for Jesus' sake, something which she would have liked for herself; nor how happy a boy can be when of his own free will, and by God's grace, he has chosen to do what his conscience tells him would please the Lord Jesus instead of what would have pleased himself.

If you have never tried it yet, begin to-day, and you will find it is quite a new happiness.

, what should have become of us
rist had only 'pleased Himself,'
ıad stayed in His own glorious
: instead of coming down to save
Think of that when you are
ted to please yourself instead of
ıing Him, and the remembrance
even He pleased not Himself
ıuse He so loved you, will help you
ry and please Him, and to please
:rs for His sake.

'If washed in Jesus' blood,
Then bear His likeness too!
And as you onward press,
Ask, "What would Jesus do?"

'Give with a full, free hand;
God freely gives to you!
And check each selfish thought
With, "What would Jesus do?"'

3.

Third Day.

Upholding.

'Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe.'—
Ps. 119. 117.

THE path is not easy. There are rough stones over which we may stumble, if we are not walking very carefully. There are places which look quite smooth, but they are more dangerous than the rough ones, for they are slippery. There are little holes hidden under flowers, which may catch our feet and give us a bad fall. There are muddy ditches, into which we may slip and get sadly wet and dirty.

How are we to walk safely along such a path? We want a strong, kind

hand to hold us up, and to hold us always; a hand that will hold ours so tightly and lovingly, that it will be as the old Scotchwoman said, 'Not my grip of Christ, but Christ's grip of me!' Yes, Christ's loving hand is 'able to keep you from falling;' only 'let your hand be restfully in the hand of Jesus,' and 'then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.'

But do not spoil the chime of this morning's bells by ringing only half a peal! Do not say, 'Hold Thou me up,' and stop there, or add, 'But, all the same, I shall stumble and fall!' Finish the peal with God's own music, the bright words of faith that He puts into your mouth, 'Hold Thou me up, *and I shall be safe!*' So you will if you do not distrust Him, if you will but *trust* Him to do just what you ask, *and let* Him hold you up.

It would be hard to find a prayer in the Bible without a promise to match it; so David says, 'Uphold me, according to Thy word.'

What has He said about it? More than there is room for on this page. 'I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand.' 'Yea, I will uphold thee.' 'He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.' 'When thou runnest thou shalt not stumble.' 'Yea, he shall be holden up.' 'He shall keep thy foot from being taken.' 'He will keep the feet of His saints.' Seven promises in answer to your one little prayer!

'I the Lord am with thee,
Be thou not afraid!
I will help and strengthen,
Be thou not dismayed!
Yea, I will uphold thee
With my own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen
In my sight to stand.'

4.

What can I do?

'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'—GAL. 6. 2.

PERHAPS you never thought that any one around you had any! Then if you want to fulfil this law of Christ, the first thing will be to find out who has any burdens, and which of them you could bear instead. You will not have to watch long! There are very few without any. Little backs cannot bear great burdens, but sometimes those who have great burdens have little ones too, and it makes such a difference if some loving little hand will take one or two of these. If your *mother* was carrying a great heavy

parcel, would it not help her if you took two or three little ones out of her hand and carried them for her? So perhaps she has troubles that you do not even know about, and you see she looks tired and anxious. And it tires her a little more, because a little brother or sister wants to be nursed or amused. Now if you put your own affairs by, and call the little ones away, and amuse them quietly so that mamma may not be disturbed, this is bearing one of her burdens. Never mind if it is really a little burden to you too; is it not worth it, when it is fulfilling the law of Christ? If for a moment a burden that you have taken up does seem rather hard, and you are tempted to drop it again, think of what the Lord Jesus bore for you! Think how He took up the heaviest burden of all for you, when He 'His own self bare our

or His sake.

v be on the watch all to-day for
ɔurdens to bear for others. See
nany you can find out, and pick
ıd carry away! Depend upon it,
ɾill not only make it a brighter
ır others, but for yourself too!

'Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make our earth an Eden,
Like the heaven above.'

5.

Fifth Day.

Instruments.

'Yield . . . your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.'—ROM. 6. 13.

THIS does not sound so easy and tuneful as most of your other 'morning bells,' you think! But listen for a few minutes and you will hear the music.

What are your members? Hands, feet, lips, eyes, ears, and so on. What are you to do with them? 'Yield' them, that is, give them up altogether, hand them over to God.

What for? That He may use them as instruments of righteousness. That is, just as we should take an instrument of music, to make music with it,

He may take your hands and feet
all your members, and use them
o right and good things with.
f a little one gives himself or herself
God, every part of that little body
o be God's little servant, a little
rument for Him to use.
'he little hands will no longer serve
n by striking or pinching; the little
will not kick or stamp, nor drag
dawdle, when they ought to run
kly on some errand; the little lips
not pout; the little tongue will
move to say a naughty thing. All
little members will leave off serving
n, and find something to do for
l; for if you 'yield' them to God,
will really take them and use
n.
He will tell the hands to pick up
t a tired mamma has dropped, and
etch her a footstool; and the fingers

to sew patiently at a warm petticoat for a poor child, or to make warm cuffs for a poor old man. He will tell the feet to run on errands of kindness and help. He will set the lips to sing happy hymns, which will cheer and comfort somebody, even if you never know of it. He will use the eyes for reading to some poor sick or blind woman, or to some fretful little one in your own home. You will be quite surprised to find in how many ways He will really use even your little members, if you give them and your whole self to Him. It will be so nice! You will never be miserable again with 'nothing to do!'

'Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.'

6.

kth
ky. **Willing and Glad.**

'Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly.'—1 CHRON. 29. 9.

WE thought yesterday morning
about giving our members up

they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord.' 'And did eat and drink on that day before the Lord with great gladness.'

See what came of offering willingly to the Lord—they 'rejoiced,' and everything they did, even eating and drinking, was 'with great gladness.' Never is any one so happy as those who offer their own selves willingly to the Lord. He gives them a thousandfold return for the worthless little self and weak little members which they have offered to Him. He gives them peace, and gladness, and blessing, beyond what they ever expected to have.

But this was not all; it was not only the people who had such a glad day, but 'David the king also rejoiced with great joy.' Those who loved their king, and recollected how much

ow he had gone through, and many battles he had fought for n, must have been glad indeed to Him rejoicing because they had ed willingly. And I think our g, *your* King Jesus, rejoices over us n He has made us able (ver. 14) offer ourselves willingly to Him. ot this best of all? Jesus, who red for us, and who fought the t battle of our salvation for us, our own beloved King, 'will re- over thee with joy; He will rest His love; He will joy over thee singing.'

full and glad surrender I give myself to Thee,
ine utterly, and only, and evermore to be!
Son of God, who lovest me, I will be Thine alone;
d all I have, and all I am, shall hence-*forth* be Thine own.'

7.

Seventh Day.

Faithfulness.

'Faithful over a few things.'—MATT. 25. 21, 23.

THE servant who had only two talents to trade with, but traded faithfully with them, had just the same glorious words spoken to him as the servant who had five talents: 'Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' Think what it would be to hear the Lord Jesus saying that to you, really to you! Oh how sweet! how blessed! how you would listen to that gracious voice saying those wonderfully gracious words to *you!*

But could He say them to you?

you 'faithful over a few things'? has given every one, even the ıgest, a few things to be faithful ; and so He has to you. Your ' things' may be very few, and small things, but He expects you e faithful over them.

/hat is being faithful over them? ıeans doing the very best you can them; doing as much for Jesus ou can with your money, even if have very little; doing as much Him as you can with your time; ıg whatever duties He gives you as as ever you can,—your lessons, work, the little things that you bidden or asked to do every day, little things that you have promised ındertaken to do for others. It ns doing all these just the same ther others see you or know about *not.*

You sigh over all this; you recollect many things in which you have not been quite faithful; you know you do not deserve for Him to call you 'good and faithful servant.' But come at once to your gracious Lord, and ask Him to forgive all the unfaithfulness, and to make you faithful to-day. And then, even if it is only a matter of a French verb or a Latin noun, you will find it a help to recollect, 'Faithful over a few things!'

'Only, O Lord, in Thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.'

8.

hth ıy. 'On mine Account.'

Put that on mine account.'—PHILEM. 18.

WHEN St. Paul asked Philemon, in a most beautiful letter, to ıe back Onesimus, who had run ay from him, he said, 'If he hath onged thee, or oweth thee ought, put ıt on my account.' Onesimus had en a bad servant to Philemon; and ing willing to come back and do tter, would not pay for what he had onged him in before, and would not y his old debts. And he evidently d nothing himself to pay them with. t St. Paul offered to pay all, so that ıesimus might be received, 'not now

as a servant,' but as a 'brother beloved.'

This is an exquisite picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ does. He not only intercedes for us with Him from whom we have departed, and against whom we have sinned; but, knowing to the full how much we have wronged God, and how much we owe Him, He says, 'Put that on mine account.'

And God has put it all on His account, and the account has been paid, paid in blood. When 'the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all,' Jesus saw and knew all your sins; and He said, 'Put that on mine account.'

Oh what wonderful 'kindness and love of God our Saviour'! Let the remembrance of it be like a silver bell, ringing softly and clearly whenever you are going to do, or letting yourself feel or think, something that is not right.

ut *that* on mine account!' Yes, it sin that you were on the very edge committing! that angry word, and e angry feeling that makes you want say it; that untrue word, and the wardliness which makes you afraid speak the exact truth; that proud ok, and the naughty pride of heart it made it come into your eyes: sus stands by and says patiently and ingly, 'Put *that* on mine account!' Can you bear that? does it not make a wish, ten times more than ever, to kept from sinning against such a viour?

'Jesus, tender Saviour,
Hast Thou died for me?
Make me very thankful
In my heart to Thee;
When the sad, sad story
Of Thy grief I read,
Make me very sorry
For my sins indeed.'

9.

Ninth Day.

White Garments.

'Let thy garments be always white.'—
ECCLES. 9. 8.

'ALWAYS? Oh, how can that be? They are soiled again directly after they have been washed clean!' Yet God says, 'Let them be *always* white;' and He would not tell you to do what was impossible. Then how are you to help soiling them? Only in one way. Last night's 'little pillow' told you how Jesus washes us 'whiter than snow' in His own precious blood, that cleanseth from all sin. But will He only cleanse His little one just for the moment? is that all He is able and willing to do for you?

hat is, *goes on cleansing*. You could
ıot keep your garments white for five
ninutes; careless thoughts would come
ike dust upon them, and wrong words
vould make great dark stains, and
ɔefore long some naughty deed would
ɔe like a sad fall in the mud, and you
vould feel sad and ashamed before the
kind Saviour who still stands ready
:o cleanse you again. But why should
all this happen over and over again,
till anybody but our own loving, long
suffering Saviour would be tired of us

only to wash you in the fountain of His precious blood, but *to keep you in it*, to *go on cleansing* you all day long. *Trust* Him to do this, and see if it is not the happiest day you ever spent!

'And He can do all this for me,
Because in sorrow, on the tree,
He once for sinners hung;
And, having washed their sin away,
He now rejoices, day by day,
To cleanse His little one.'

Tenth Day.

Made Beautiful.

'Let the beauty of the Lord our
upon us.'—Ps. 90. 17.

'HOW great is His beau
Zechariah. How
beauty be upon us? In two
to understand them, and the
in both ways the beauty of
our God may be upon you.
One way is by His coverir

which I had put upon thee.' The other way is by giving you the beauty of holiness, for that is His own beauty; and though we never can be quite like Him till we see Him as He is, He can begin to make us like Him even now. Look at a poor little colourless drop of water, hanging weakly on a blade of grass. It is not beautiful at all; why should you stop to look at it? Stay till the sun has risen, and now look. It is sparkling like a diamond; and if you look at it from another side, it will be glowing like a ruby, and presently gleaming like an emerald. The poor little drop has become one of the brightest and loveliest things you ever saw. But is it its own brightness and beauty? No; if it slipped down to the ground out of the sunshine, it would be only a poor little dirty drop of water. So, if the Sun of Righteousness, the

the happy light on a face that
is shining there; but if th
really shining, there are su
some of the beautiful rays of
love, joy, peace, gentleness,
faith, meekness, making the
of a little child very lovely.

'Jesus, Lord, I come to The
Thou hast said I may;
Tell me what my life shoul
Take my sins away.

'Jesus, Lord, I learn of The

11.

Eleventh Day. **Pleasant Gifts.**

'Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.'—
1 Tim. 6. 17.

THINK a little this morning of God's great kindness to you. How *very* good He is to you! I know one of His dear children who looks up many, many times a day, and says, '*Good* Lord Jesus!' or '*Kind* Lord Jesus!' She does not set herself to say it, but it seems as if she could not help saying it, just because He *is* so good and kind. And then it seems only natural to look up again and say, '*Dear* Lord Jesus!' How *can* anybody go on all day long, and never see how good He is, and never look up and bless Him?

ost especially on bright pleasant
ys, when He giveth us more even
an usual to enjoy! He 'giveth.' Not
e single pleasant thing, not one single
t of enjoyment comes to us but what
e giveth. We cannot get it, we do
t earn it, we do not deserve it; but
e *giveth* lovingly, and kindly, and
ely. Suppose He stopped giving,
at would become of us?

'Richly.' So richly, that if you tried
write down half His gifts to you, your
nd would be tired long before you

would ever have thought of. All the things that He can fill your little hands with, and trust you to carry without stumbling and falling. *All* things, everything that you have at all!

'To enjoy.' Now how kind this is! not only 'to do us good,' but 'to enjoy.' So you see He means you to be happy with what He gives you, to smile and laugh and be glad, not to be dismal and melancholy. If you do not enjoy what He 'giveth,' that is your own fault, for He meant you to enjoy it. Look up to Him with a bright smile, and thank Him for having given you richly all things to enjoy!

'My joys to Thee I bring,
The joys Thy love hath given,
That each may be a wing
To lift me nearer heaven.
I bring them, Saviour, all to Thee,
For Thou hast purchased all for me.'

12.

Twelfth Day. **Much more than this.**

'The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.'—2 CHRON. 25. 9.

AMAZIAH, king of Judah, was going to war against the Edomites. He thought he would make sure of victory by hiring a hundred thousand soldiers from the King of Israel, and he paid them beforehand a hundred talents, which was about £34,218, 15s. of our money. But a man of God warned him not to let the army of Israel go with him, for Israel had forsaken the Lord, and so He was not with them. It seemed a great pity to waste all that money, and so Amaziah *said,* 'But what shall we do for the

hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.' So Amaziah simply obeyed, and sent the soldiers away, and trusted God to help him to do without them. Was it any wonder that he gained a great victory over the Edomites?

Does not this teach us that we should simply do the right thing, and trust God at any cost? When you do this, you will find that, in hundreds of ways which you never thought of, 'the Lord is able to give thee much more.' The trial comes in many different ways. One may be tempted to hurry over prayer and Bible, because there is something else that she very much wants to get done before breakfast, and she is afraid of not having time enough. Another shuts up her little purse when

l comes to give something for
work, because she is afraid she
ıot have enough left for another
ıse. Another is tempted to look
key, or to glance over another's
ler at a lesson, because without
would not get the marks he is
; for. Another is tempted not
l the exact truth, or to conceal
:hing which he ought to tell, be-
he would lose something by it.
esist the devil, and do what you
is right, and trust God for all the
For 'the Lord is able to give
much more than this,' whatever
'*this*' may be. And His smile
His blessing will always be 'more
this,' more than anything else!

Be brave to do the right,
And scorn to be untrue;
When fear would whisper "yield!"
Ask, "What would Jesus do?"'

Thirteenth Day.

13.

The Doings of the King.

'Whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.'—2 SAM. 3. 36.

DAVID had been giving a proof of his love for one who had long been his enemy, but whom he had received into friendship; and he had been giving a proof of his tender-heartedness and sympathy with the people, by weeping with them at the grave of Abner. 'And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.'

This was because they loved their king. They watched him, not as the wicked Pharisees watched the Lord

ıt they might find something
Him; but with the watching of
ın and love, taking notice of
and gracious things he did and
› you thus take notice of what
ing does? Does it please you
and read of what He has done
ıt He is doing? It must be so
ally is your King.

the 'whatsoever' is a little
and yet, if it is once really
t makes everything easy. For
arn to be pleased with *what-*
ur King Jesus does, nothing
ıe wrong to us.

›se something comes to-day
is not quite what you would
ted; heavy rain, for instance,
ou wanted to go out,—recol-
ıt your King Jesus has done
that will hush the little mur-
ıd make you quite content.

Ask Him this morning to make you so loving and loyal to Him, that *whatsoever* He does, all day long, may please you, because it has pleased Him to do it. I think He loves us so much, that He always gives us as much happiness as He can possibly trust us with, and does what is pleasantest for His dear children whenever He sees it will not hurt them; so, when He does something which at first does not seem so pleasant, we may still trust our beloved King, and learn by His grace to be pleased with *whatsoever* He does.

'I hear a sweet voice ringing clear,
"All is well!"
It is my Father's voice I hear,
All is well!
Where'er I walk that voice is heard,
It is my God, my Father's word—
"Fear not, but trust; I am the Lord,
All is well."'

14.

teenth ay. **The New Heart.**

'A new heart also will I give you.'—
EZEK. 36. 26.

WHY does God promise this? Because our old hearts are so evil : they cannot be made any better ; so nothing will do any good but ng us a quite new heart.

ecause we cannot make a new heart ourselves; the more we try, the more shall find we cannot do it; so God, His great pity and kindness, says will give it us.

ecause unless we have a new heart cannot enter the kingdom of God, cannot even see it! Without this we must be left outside in the

terrible darkness when 'the door is shut.'

What is the difference? The old heart *likes* to be naughty in some way or other; either it likes to be idle, or it likes to let out sharp words, or to go on being sulky or fretful instead of clearing up and saying, 'I am sorry!' The new heart *wants* to be good; and is grieved when a temptation comes, and does not wish to yield to it; and would like to be always pleasing the Saviour.

The old heart is afraid of God, and does not love Him, and would much rather He were not always seeing us. And it does not care to hear about Jesus, but would rather be just let alone. The new heart loves God and trusts what He says, and likes to know that He is always watching it. And it is glad to hear about Jesus, and wants to come closer to Him.

orders, and doing what He w

Oh how happy and blesse this new heart! All God's dren receive it, for He has sai give them one heart;' that same new heart. Do you no have it too? Then 'ask, and receive;' for He hath said, 'A I also *will* I give you!'

'Oh for a heart to praise my G
A heart from sin set free!
A heart that always feels Thy
So freely shed for me.

Fifteenth Day.

15.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit.

'I will put my Spirit within you.'—
EZEK. 36. 27.

MANY years ago a good clergyman wrote a tiny prayer, so short that no one could help remembering it if they once heard it. God seemed to set that little prayer 'upon wheels,' so that it might run everywhere. It was printed on large cards and hung up, and it was printed on small ones and kept in Bibles and pocket-books. It was taught to classes, and schools, and whole congregations, and now thousands upon thousands pray it constantly. It is a prayer which must be heard, because it asks for what

has promised to give; and it asks
his through Him whom the Father
eth always. It is this. 'O God,
me Thy Holy Spirit, for Jesus
t's sake. Amen.' Will you not
it too? Begin this morning, and
, not just *saying* it, but *praying* it,
ou get a full answer. For you are
sure to get it; here is God's own
ise, 'I *will* put my Spirit within
' and He has promised it over and
again in other places. Perhaps
will not know at first when the
er comes. Can you see the dew
No one ever saw a single drop
down, and yet as soon as the sun
you see that it has come, and is
ling all over the fields. It came
before you saw it, falling sweetly
ilently in the twilight and in the
So do not fancy God is not
g you because you have not felt

anything very sudden and wonderful. He is hearing and answering all the time. You would not go on asking unless the dew of His Spirit were already falling upon your heart, and teaching you to pray. The more He gives you of His blessed Spirit, the more you will ask for; and the more you ask, the more He will give.

'Thou gift of Jesus, now descend,
And be my Comforter and Friend;
O Holy Spirit, fill my heart,
That I from Christ may ne'er depart!

'Show me my soul all black within,
And cleanse and keep me pure within;
Oh, show me Jesus! let me rest
My heart upon His loving breast!'

'The Lord shall fight for you.'-

HOW glad the childre
must have been wl
said these words to them on
of the Red Sea! For when tl
up their eyes, behold, the
marched after them; and t
sore afraid.'

The Egyptians had been c
ters to them; and they had h
chariots to pursue.'

And so, left to themselves, they would have been; but God fought for them in a way they never thought of. For 'the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea-shore.'

What about your Egyptians?—the angry tempers or sulky looks, the impatient words, the vain and foolish thoughts, the besetting sins that master you so often. Have you tried so often to fight against them, and failed, that it seems almost no use, and you do not see how to conquer them or to escape them? Are you very tired of fighting, and 'sore afraid' of being always overcome just the same as ever? Now hear God's true, strong promise to you. 'The Lord shall fight for you!' 'Will He really?' Yes, really, and He will conquer for you too, if

will only believe His Word and
t the battle to Him, and *let* Him
t for you.
How? First, watch! and then the
y instant you see the enemy coming,
c up and say, 'Come, Lord, and fight
me;' and keep on looking up and
cting Him to fight for you. And
will find that He does fight for you
gives you the victory; and you
will be 'saved that day,' and will
'the Egyptians dead upon the sea-
re.' Try Him, and trust Him; and
, even you, will be 'more than con-
ror through Him that loved you.'

'So, when you meet with trials,
And know not what to do;
Just cast the care on Jesus,
And He will fight for you.
Gird on the heavenly armour
Of faith, and hope, and love;
And when the conflict's ended,
You'll reign with Him above.'

Seventeenth Day.

17.

The Master's Voice.

'I will watch to see what He will say unto me.'—HAB. 2. 1.

WHEN the Lord Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee, 'Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee;' he answered, 'Master, say on!' When God was going to speak to Samuel, he said, 'Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth.' Has the Lord Jesus said anything like this for us? He says, 'I have yet many things to say unto you.' What things? They will be strong, helpful, life-giving words, for He says, 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.' They will be very loving words, for He says, 'I

will speak comfortably to her' (margin, 'I will speak to her heart'). And they will be very kind and tender words, and spoken just at the right moment, for He says that He knows 'how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.' 'Will He really speak to me?' says the little heart. Yes, really, if you will only watch to see what He will say to you. For it will be 'a still, small voice,' and you will not hear it at all if you do not listen for it. 'How will He speak to me?' If I had something very nice to tell you, and instead of saying it out loud, I wrote it down on a piece of paper, and gave it you to look at, would not that be exactly the same as if I had told it you with my lips? And you would take the paper eagerly to see what it was that I had to say to you. So to-day, when *you read your* Bible, either alone or at

your Bible lesson, watch to see what Jesus will say to you in it. You will never really watch in vain. You will see some word that seems to come home to you, and that you never noticed so much before. Oh, listen lovingly to it, for *that* is what He says to you! Or if you are really watching and wishing for a word from Him, some sweet text will come into your mind, and you wonder what made you think of it! That is the voice of Jesus speaking to your heart. Listen to it, and treasure it up, and follow it; and then watch to see what else He will say to you. Say to Him, 'Master, say on!'

'Master, speak! and make me ready,
When Thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady,
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak, oh speak to me!'

'He careth for you.'—1 PET. 5. 7.

T is so pleasant to be cared for; to have kind relations and friends o show that they love you by their e of you, and their care for you. at would you do if no one cared for , like the poor little children in ndon who are turned out to 'do for mselves' before they are as old as are? What would you do if there s no one to get anything for you to , or to see to your clothes, or to p a home for you to live in? No to take any notice if you hurt rself ever so badly, or if you were *r so ill?* You would feel then what

a difference being cared for makes to your life. But all the earthly care for you comes because 'He careth for you.' He planned and arranged everything, without your having anything to do with it, so that you shall be cared for. And He did not arrange it once for all, and then leave things to go on as might happen. No! Every day, every moment, He careth, *goes on* caring, for you. Not only thinking of you and watching you, but working for you; making things come right, so that everything should be just the best that could happen to you. Not managing the great things, and leaving the little things to arrange themselves; but giving loving care to the least, the very least things that concern you. Even in some tiny little trouble which no one else seems to care about, 'He careth;' or when every one else is too

care, for it ...
can never be outside of it, for i
always enfolding you.

'"Who will take care of me?" darling,
say,
Lovingly, tenderly watched as you are
Listen! I give you the answer to-day,
ONE who is never forgetful or far.

'He will take care of you! All through
year
Crowning each day with His kindnes
love,
Sending you blessings and shielding fron
Leading you on to His bright home a

Nineteenth Day.

19.

Under His Wings.

'Under His wings shalt thou trust.'—Ps. 91. 4.

THAT means to-day, not some other time! Under His wings, the shadowing wings of the Most High, you, poor little helpless one, are to trust to-day.

When the little eaglets, that have not yet a feather to fly with, are under the great wings of the parent eagle, how safe they are! Who would dare touch them? If a bold climber put his hand into the nest then, those powerful wings would beat him in a minute from his hold, and he would fall down the rocks and be dashed to pieces. So safe shall you be 'under

round the eyrie, and the m
is felt, that is death to an
sleeper, how warm the littl
kept! Not an arrow of th
reaches them, poor little
things, not a snowflake to
So warm shall you be kept
wings,' when any cold and
trouble comes, or even
little blast of unkindness c

'Under His wings shalt
Not 'shalt thou *see!*' I
eaglets wanted to see fo

So you are to *trust*, rest quietly and peacefully, 'under His wings;' stay there, not be peeping out and wondering whether God really is taking care of you! You may be always safe and happy there. Safe, for 'in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge.' Happy, for 'in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.'

Remember, too, that it is a command as well as a promise; it is what you are to do to-day, all day long: 'Under His wings *shalt* thou trust!'

'I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee!
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free

'I am trusting Thee to guide me,
Thou alone shalt lead!
Every day and hour supplying
All my need.'

Always Near.

'I am with you alway.'—MATT. 28. 20.

HOW nice it would be if we cou always have the one we lov best in all the world with us; ne away from us night or day, and no f that they ever possibly would or co leave us; never a good-bye even for a such a little while, and never, never long farewell of death!

Can this ever be for you? Yes

one who is a dis

meant to come, when He would begin to be 'with you;' but He says, 'I *am* with you.' Yes, even now, though perhaps your eyes are holden, like those of the two who walked to Emmaus, when Jesus was beside them and they did not know it. Your feeling or not feeling that He is there has nothing at all to do with it, because His word must be true and *is* true, and He has said, 'I *am* with you alway.' All you have to do is to be happy in believing it to be true. And if you go on believing it, you will soon begin to realize it; that is, to find that it is a real thing, and that Jesus really is with you.

How long will He be with you? Always, 'all the days!' He hath said, 'I will never leave thee.' 'Never' means really *never*, not for one moment. You cannot get beyond 'never.' It goes on all through your life, and all

through God's great 'for ever.' And 'always' means really *always*, every single moment of all your life, so that you need never ask again, 'Is Jesus with me now?' Of course He is! the answer will always be 'yes,' because He hath said, 'I am with you alway.' How safe, how sweet, how blessed!

'O Jesus, make Thyself to me
A living, bright reality!
More present to faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen;
More dear, more intimately nigh,
Than even the sweetest earthly tie.'

Twenty-first Day.

21.

Doing God's Will.

'Teach me to do Thy will.'—Ps. 143. 10.

WHEN you see some one doing with very great delight some beautiful and pleasant piece of work, have you not thought, 'I should like to be able to do that!' and perhaps you have said, 'Please, teach me how to do it.'

Can you think of anything pleasanter to do than what the very angels are full of delight in doing? Can you think of anything more beautiful to do than what is done in the 'pleasant land,' the beautiful home above? Can you fancy anything more interesting to do than what the dwellers there will never

get tired of doing for thousands of millions of years? Would you not like to be taught to do it too?—to begin the pleasant and beautiful and most interesting work now, instead of waiting till you are grown up, and then perhaps never learning it at all, because it was put off now? Then pray this little prayer this morning with all your heart, 'Teach me to do Thy will.' For it is His will that is the happiest work above, and the very happiest thing to do here below.

What is His will? The Prayer-Book version of this Psalm tells you very simply and sweetly. It says, 'Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee.' So doing God's will is just doing the things, one by one, that please Him.

Why did David ask this? He goes on to say why—'For Thou art my God.' *If God* is really *our* God, we too shall

wish to do the thing that pleaseth Him. David did not think he could do it of himself, for he says next, 'Let Thy loving Spirit lead me.' That loving Spirit will lead you too, dear child, and show you how beautiful and grand God's will is, and make you long to do it always, and teach you to do it. So that even on earth you may begin to do what the angels are doing in heaven!

'It is but very little
For Him that I can do,
Then let me seek to serve Him,
My earthly journey through;
And without sigh or murmur,
To do His holy will;
And in my daily duties
His wise commands fulfil.'

'Ye have done it unto me.' 'Ye di
to me.'—MATT. 25. 40 and 4

OUR Lord Jesus Christ ha
us opportunities of s
whether we love Him or no
tells us that what we try to do
one who is poor, or hungry, or
a lonely stranger, is just the s
doing it to Him. And when th
says, 'Come, ye blessed,' He
member these little things, a
say 'Ye have done it unto me

One of these two words will be spoken to you in the great day when you see the King on the throne of His glory. Which shall it be? What are you doing for Jesus? Are you doing anything at all for Him? Perhaps you say, 'I have no opportunity.' Did you ever try to find one? Did you ever ask Him to give you opportunities of doing something for Him? Or is it only that you have never yet cared or tried to do anything for Him? Be honest about it. He knows. And He will forgive.

But now, what is to be done? Begin by asking Him to show you. And then, keep a bright, sharp look-out, and see if you cannot find an opportunity very soon (and perhaps many) of doing something kind for His sake to some poor or sick or lonely one. Set to work to *think* what you could do!

It seems to me so very kind of the Lord Jesus to have told us this. For He knew that those who really love Him would *want* to do something for Him, and what could we do for the King of glory in His glorious heaven? So it was wonderfully thoughtful of Him to give us His poor people to care for, and to say, if we have only

Twenty-third Day.

23.

Standard-Bearers.

'Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee.'—Ps. 60. 4.

THEN what is your banner, and what are you doing with it? For if you are among 'them that fear' God, He has given you a banner 'that it may be displayed.' Is yours furled up and put away in a corner, so that nobody sees it or knows of it? Or are you trying to be a brave little standard-bearer of Jesus Christ, carrying His flag, so that the sweet breezes of His Spirit may lift its bright folds, and show its golden motto? That motto, I think, is 'Love.' For we are told that His banner over us is love.

are you displaying it, showing your love to Him by your love to others? showing the power of His love over you by your sweet, happy temper, and by trying to please Him always?

Carrying a banner means something. First, it means that you belong to or have to do with those whose banner you carry, and that you are not ashamed of them. At great Sunday-school festivals we know to which school a boy belongs by the flag that he carries. You would like to carry the flag of England or the Queen's royal flag, because you are English and loyal. So let us carry the banner of Jesus Christ because we are loyal to Him, and are not ashamed to own Him as our King. Secondly, it means that we are ready to fight, and ready to encourage others to fight under the same banner. When you are tempted to

do something wrong, remember whose banner you carry, and do not disgrace it. If one does right, it makes it easier for the other to do right too. Thirdly, it means rejoicing. You know how flags are hung out on grand days, and carried in triumphal processions. The little hand that carries Christ's banner through His war, will carry it also in His triumph; the little hand that tries to unfurl it bravely now, will wave it when His glorious reign begins and His blessed kingdom is come. Then, 'in the name of our God we will set up our banners' *now!*

'The Master hath called us, the children who fear Him,
Who march 'neath Christ's banner, His own little band;
We love Him, and seek Him; we long to be near Him,
And rest in the light of His beautiful land.'

Soldiers.

'Chosen to be a soldier.'—2 TIM. 2. 4.

ARE you a soldier? You ought to be, for you have been chosen to be a soldier in the glorious army of Jesus Christ.

You ought to be, for you have been 'received into the congregation of Christ's flock' at your baptism, and engaged 'manfully to fight under His banner against sin, the world, and the

receive you, if you will but come and enlist now. Now, this very morning, come and enlist! This very morning ask Him to receive you into His noble army, and to give you first the shield of His salvation, and then the whole armour of God, and to 'teach your hands to war and your fingers to fight,' and to give you victories every day even now, and to let you share His grand triumphs hereafter.

Perhaps you know that you have enlisted already, you know and love your Captain, and He is enabling you, even if very feebly, yet really, to fight the good fight of faith? How came you to enlist? Was it any credit to you? Oh no! it was all His doing. It was He who chose you to be a soldier, not you who chose Him to be a Captain. And then He sent not some dreadful cannon roar, but the sweet bugle-call

with you, but ...
nothing shall by any means hurt you, or 'He was wounded' for you. Your life is safe with Him, for He laid down His own for you. By His side you can never be vanquished, because He goes forth 'always conquering and to conquer.'

'Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.

'From victory to victory
... ll be led

25.

Twenty-fifth Day.

A Loyal Aim.

'That he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.'—2 TIM. 2. 4.

HERE is something worth aiming at, worth trying for! The Lord Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, is He who hath chosen us to be His soldiers; and now, does He only tell us that we may do our duty,—serve, obey, and fight? No; He tells us something more, gives us a hope and an aim so bright and pleasant, that it is like sunshine upon everything. He says, we 'may *please* Him.'

Only one who knows what it is to mourn for having grieved the dear Saviour, can quite understand what a

ful, grieving His love over ... again, should be told after all that we may *please* Him! Oh, if we love Him, our hearts will just leap at the hope of it! Perhaps we thought this could not be till we reached heaven; but you see His own word says, we 'may please Him' now, while we are soldiers, in the very midst of the fighting. St. Paul tells us one thing in which you may please Him: 'Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.' But he prays ... Colossians 'might walk

show you 'how you ought to walk and to please God,' and so to help you to 'do those things that are pleasing in His sight;' that all your ways, even every little step of your ways, may really and truly 'please the Lord' (Prov. 16. 7).

'True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful, and loyal,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be;
Under Thy standard, exalted and royal,
Strong in Thy strength, we will battle for Thee.

'True-hearted, whole-hearted, fullest allegiance,
Yielding henceforth to our glorious King,
Valiant endeavour and loving obedience,
Freely and joyously, now we would bring.'

enty-sixth Day.

26.

Obedience to Christ.

Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.'—
JOHN 2. 5.

HOW are we to know what He

ar a little voice inside that always lls you to do the right thing, and not o do the wrong thing? That is con-cience, and He speaks to you by it.

Another way is by those whom He has set over you. He has told you once for all to 'obey your parents,' and to 'obey them that have the rule over you.' So, when they tell you to do something, it is the Lord Jesus Himself that you have to obey in obeying them.

Now 'whatsoever He saith unto you, do it!' Yes, 'whatsoever,' dear little one, whether easy or hard, do it because He tells you; do it for love of Him, and it will be a thousand times better and happier to obey your King than to please yourself. And He Himself will help you to do it; only look up to Him for grace to obey, and He will give it.

'Whatsoever He saith unto you, *do* it.' Do not just think about doing it, or talk about doing it, but *do* it! '*Do it!*' Do the exact thing He would have you do, not something a little bit different, or something which you think will be very nearly the same, but do '*it*.'

And 'do it' at once. It is so true, that 'the very first moment is the easiest for obedience.' Every minute that you put off doing the right thing makes it harder. Do not let your King have to 'speak twice' to you. 'Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it' cheerfully, exactly, and instantly.

'Jesus, help me, I am weak;
Let me put my trust in Thee;
Teach me how and what to speak;
Loving Saviour, care for me.
Dear Saviour, hear me,
Hear a little child to-day;
Hear, oh hear me;
Hear me when I pray.'

Twenty-seventh Day.

27.

Do it Heartily.

'Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.'—COL. 3. 23.

IN 2 Chron. 31. 21, we read of Hezekiah, that 'in every work that he began, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.' And this morning's 'bell' rings a New Testament echo, 'Do it heartily!' Sing it now, like a little peal of bells!

See if that does not ring in your ears all day, and remind you that it is not merely much pleasanter to be bright and brisk about everything, but

at it is actually one of God's com-
ands, written in His own word.
I know this is easier to some than
others. Perhaps it 'comes natural'
you to do everything heartily. That
very nice, but it is not enough.
hat else? 'Whatsoever ye do, do it
artily, *as unto the Lord*, and not unto
en.' He knows whether the indus-
ous, energetic boy or girl is wishing

Is it not just as much disobeying God as breaking any other command? Are you not *guilty* before Him? Very likely you never thought of it in this way, but there the words stand, and neither you nor I can alter them. First ask Him to forgive you all the past idleness and idle ways, for Christ's sake, and then ask Him to give you strength henceforth to obey this word of His. And then listen to the little chime, 'Do it heartily! do it heartily!' And *then* the last word of the verse about Hezekiah will be true of you too —'Prospered!'

'Up and doing, little Christian!
Up and doing, while 'tis day!
Do the work the Master gives you,
Do not loiter by the way.
For we all have work before us,
You, dear child, as well as I;
Let us learn to seek our duty,
And to "do it heartily."'

Twenty-eighth Day. **28.**

The Sight of Faith.

'As seeing Him who is invisible.'—HEB. 11. 27.

IF we were always doing everything just as if we saw Him, whom having not seen we love, how different our lives would be! How much happier too! How brave, and bright, and patient we should be, if all the time we could really see Jesus as Stephen saw Him! And by faith, the precious faith which God is ready to give to all who ask, we may go on our way with this light upon it, 'as seeing Him who is invisible.'

These words were said of Moses; and this seeing Him by faith had three *effects.* *First,* 'he forsook Egypt;' it

made him ready to give up anything for his God, and God's people. It made him true and loyal to God's cause. What did He care for anything else, so long as he saw 'Him who is invisible'? Secondly, it took away all his fear. What was 'the wrath of the king' to him, when Jehovah was by his side? Of what should he be afraid? Thirdly, it enabled him to 'endure,' to wait patiently for forty years in the desert, and then to work patiently for forty years in the wilderness; and only think how strength-giving that sight of faith must be which enabled him to endure everything for eighty years!

Try for yourself to-day what was such great and long help to Moses. Ask God, before you go down-stairs, for faith, 'the eye of the soul,' so that you may walk all day long 'as seeing Him who is invisible.' When you are tempted

to indulge in something wrong,—idleness or carelessness, or selfishness,—this will help you to give it up at once, and forsake it; for how can you give way to it when your eye meets His? When something makes you afraid, this will make you brave and peaceful; for how can you fear anything when your God is so near? When lessons, or work, or even having to be quiet with nothing to do, seem very tiresome, and you are tempted to be impatient, and perhaps cross, this will help you to endure, and not only so, but to feel patient; for how can you be impatient when you are looking up to Him, and He is looking down on you all the time!

'God will not leave me all alone,
He never will forsake His own;
When not another friend I see,
The Lord is looking down on me.'

29.

Twenty-ninth Day. **No Weights.**

'Let us lay aside every weight.'—HEB. 12. 1.

IF you were going to run a race, you would first put down all the parcels you might have been carrying. And if you had a heavy little parcel in your pocket, you would take that out, and lay it down too, because it would hinder you in running. You would know better than to say, 'I will put down the parcels which I have in my hands, but nobody can see the one in my pocket, so that one won't matter!' You would 'lay aside *every* weight.'

You have a race to run to-day, a little piece of the great race that is set

u. God has set a splendid
re you, 'the prize of the high
God in Christ Jesus,' a crown
corruptible.

what are you going to do about
ghts, the things that hinder you
unning this race? You know
things do seem to hinder you;
ou keep them or lay them aside?
you only lay aside something that
one can see is hindering you, so
you will get a little credit for
ing it down, and keep something
t your own little conscience knows
a real hindrance, though no one else
nows anything at all about it? Oh,
ke St. Paul's wise and holy advice,
nd make up your mind to lay aside
very weight.

Different persons have different *weights*; we must find out what ours *re, and give them* up. One finds that

if she does not get up directly she is called, the time slips by, and there is not enough left for quiet prayer and Bible reading. Then here is a little weight that must be laid aside. Another is at school, and finds that he gets no good, but a little harm, when he goes much with a certain boy. Then he must lay that weight aside. Another takes a story-book up to bed, and reads it while nurse is brushing her hair, and up to the last minute, and then her head is so full of the story that she only *says words* when she kneels down, and cannot really *pray* at all. Can she doubt that this is a weight which must be laid aside?

It may seem hard to lay our pet weight down; but oh, if you only knew how light we feel when it is laid down, and how much easier it is to run the race which God has set before us!

Thirtieth Day.

30.

The Shield of Salvation.

'Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation.'—2 SAM. 22. 36.

THIS beautiful little text teaches us a very precious truth. It shows us that the salvation which the Lord Jesus came to bring is not only salvation at last, just escaping hell, but that it is salvation now, and salvation in everything. Salvation does not only mean victory at last, but it is like a broad shining shield, given to us in the midst of the battle, coming between us and the poisoned arrows and sharp sword-thrusts of the enemy. It is a shield not only to keep us from death, *but to* keep us from being hurt and

wounded. It is the shield which the Captain *has* given us to use now, as well as the crown which He *will* give when the warfare is ended.

How are you to use this shield? what does it really mean for you? It means, that if you have come to the Lord Jesus to be saved, He does not merely say He *will* save you, but that you *are* saved, that He saves you now. And this is how you are to use it—believe it, and be sure of it, because you have His word for it; and then, when a temptation comes, tell the enemy that he has nothing to do with you, for you are saved; that you belong to Jesus, and not to him,—look up and say, 'Jesus saves me!' Will He fail you? Did He ever let any find themselves deceived and mistaken who looked up in faith and confidence to Him, trusting in His great salvation?

r! and never will you find this
l of His salvation fail to cover
completely. Satan himself cannot
h you when you are behind this
ld! Lift it up when you see him
ning, even ever so far off, and you
l be safe.

Jesus saves me every day,
Jesus saves me every night;
Jesus saves me all the way,
Through the darkness, through the light.'

Thirty-first Day.

31.

I will love Thee.

'I will love Thee, O Lord.'—Ps. 18. 1.

YES, even if I have never loved Thee before, I will love Thee, O Lord, now!

I will love Thee, Lord Jesus, because Thou hast loved me, and because Thou art loving me now, and wilt love me to the end. Oh forgive me for not having loved Thee! How could I have helped loving Thee, when Thou wast waiting all the time for me, waiting so patiently while I did not care about Thee! Oh forgive me! and now I will love Thee always; for Thou wilt take my love, and fix it on Thyself, and keep it for Thyself.

I will love Thee, O Lord Jesus; I will not listen to Satan, who tries to keep me from loving Thee; I will not ask myself anything about it, lest I should begin to get puzzled about whether I do love Thee or not. Thou knowest that I do want to love Thee; and now, dear Lord Jesus, hear me say that I *will* love Thee, and that

into everything I do, and that I may love everybody, because I love Thee.

Yes, I will love Thee, dear Lord Jesus!

'My Saviour, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine!
For Thee, all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!

'I love Thee, because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!

'I will love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath:
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!'

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